

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 to 7. (Canceled)

8. (New) A copper-based alloy containing Bi and Pb and having 0.01 to 1.0 weight% of Te incorporated therein as an additive element to form in an alloy texture an intermetallic compound of Pb-Te having a higher melting point than a Bi-Pb binary eutectic crystal, suppress occurrence of the Bi-Pb binary eutectic crystal in the alloy texture and improve mechanical properties, particularly tensile strength, thereof at elevated temperatures.

9. (New) A copper-based alloy according to claim 1, wherein the additive element is contained in a ratio of 0.01 to 0.22 weight%.

10. (New) A copper-based alloy according to claim 1, wherein it contains at least Sn in a ratio of 2.8 to 6.0 weight%, Zn in a ratio of 1.0 to 12.0 weight% and Bi in a ratio of 0.1 to 3.0 weight%.

11. (New) A copper-based alloy according to claim 3, wherein it contains at least Sn in a ratio of 2.8 to 6.0 weight%, Zn in a ratio of 1.0 to 12.0 weight% and Bi in a ratio of 0.1 to 3.0 weight%.

12. (New) A copper-based alloy according to claim 1, wherein it contains at least Sn in a ratio of 2.8 to 6.0 weight%, Zn in a ratio of 1.0 to 12.0 weight%, Bi in a ratio of 0.1 to 2.4 weight% and Se in a ratio of 0.05 to 1.2 weight%.

13. (New) A copper-based alloy according to claim 3, wherein it contains at least Sn in a ratio of 2.8 to 6.0 weight%, Zn in a ratio of 1.0 to 12.0 weight%, Bi in a ratio of 0.1 to 2.4 weight% and Se in a ratio of 0.05 to 1.2 weight%.

14. (New) A copper-based alloy according to claim 8, wherein it has a Pb content of not more than 0.25 weight%.

15. (New) A copper-based alloy according to claim 9, wherein it has a Pb content of not more than 0.25 weight%.

16. (New) A copper-based alloy according to claim 10, wherein it has a Pb content of not more than 0.25 weight%.

17. (New) A copper-based alloy according to claim 11, wherein it has a Pb content of not more than 0.25 weight%.

18. (New) A copper-based alloy according to claim 12, wherein it has a Pb content of not more than 0.25 weight%.

19. (New) A copper-based alloy according to claim 13, wherein it has a Pb content of not more than 0.25 weight%.